52 T. S. 15 Nov. 1937

Why ~~to~~ 'ere' Virginia? Why must I answer your letter? That of course is the way to make me sit down at once and answer it. Why are you a Dutch bear? And why shouldn't we go for a jaunt? Why, why, why? Just because you choose to sit in the mud in Kent – I on the flags of London, that's no reason why Monkey fade so? Why the pearls & the pompoise shouldn't vanish?

No. I want no year argument. In January I will take you to the place where we once had a glass of wine in a bow window overlooking the river. Also I'll take you to the Tower – I've just been there, this drizzling Sunday; became almost every day I take my walk through the City. I like it better

than Kent – Bread Street, Cannonbe Street. Seething
Lane. All Hallows. St Olaves – Then out on
Tower at the Tower, & thro' I walk on the
terrace by the Jews, with the ships coming up or down –
which is it? Last week we went to
Guy Fawkes at Lewes – Lord love me, why didn't
you come? Tossing torches all up & down the
streets: people rigged up as Cowtrees, Gondoliers,
old farmers in black Spanish hats. Then we
all trooped onto the downs, & burnt the
Pope. It was the very image of an Italian
picture of Calvary; crowds gazing up: the Jesuits falling
on their knees & praying. Spain burning & Hitler
booming – A French politician is dining here: I have to
cook the dinner, & can't, as you know. talk what you
would call, French – (D'ye remember the rough sea on
the Channel boat? – how skilfully I shortened it?)
So no more – But if you per
should again take to twisting, twit it.
Because, my dear Vita, what's the use of
saying 'Ona Virginea' when I'm about
here? now? Do', Potto yet Comer to that.
yr faithful old servant
& adorer V. W

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HAMILL & BARKER 2/5/62

Jan 1. 38.

Monks Moore
Rodmell.

It's not due to you that I'm alive today: I'm
sailing the whole live practically myself!
Heaven above us, what immortal fellow
must have gone to make it! Woman speak as a
dock leaf, pink as mushroom. Pure as first
love. (But just love covers nothing to the
hardened & battered- this I put in by way of an
aside) Woman so divine, I would forgive
any treachery. My word what a lie! Tom
Eliot was living with us the night it came.
Complete silence reigned. The post ali: the
novelist ali: Even Leonard, who had a chill inside,
ali. Nothing of the least importance was said.
Where do they come from? Could ~~you~~ one
lend a card & have one at will? We seem

incredible. And then Totton's Collar arrived.
Out I trotted with Virginia Rayned on my
neck. Many people accosted me; others
took the view that there was something sacred
like a text from the Bible - about a woman
with a name on her: others — oh did I tell you
I'd been offered an Order? - I forget — they
thought I'd come from Buckingham Palace.
A kind of Order of Merit. But Orlando,
Pink porpoise, But it against our
Covenant to do the work of things.
remember offering me Thackeray were cooler or
cash tray or something in the dog & the fishmonger -
how I dare: Unhand me Sirrah! I'm
not sure I shant send for a present: take care
next time a rather heavy, think malodorous
packet arrives: a little ooze at the corners.
The woman owning Sss! is that you can only
be seen twice, calves heads, - steps that dont
add to the value of the estate. Shells in ecstacies
over his pate. 12,000 copies of Petals sold.
I'm thanking & buying a coat V.

10th Jan. 1938

52 Tavistock Sq.

Yes, certainly — 19th June. By all means.
But we've been having the devil's own time. Leonard's
Kidney trouble suddenly at Monks House: we
came up ten days ago: Lina then he's been in bed,
& we've had X rays, & all the other horrors: the Dr
has just rung up to say the last report is favourable.
Otherwise, he had suggested L's going to a nursing
home for a complete examination — I hope now
this is staved off. & all will be well. But
as you see we can't be sure yet. Your plans.

think of you & don't mind keeping the 19th free,
I'd better send you a line later this week.
They threatened the prostate - but on Thursday, now
it seems over; & if that so, he'll be all right by
then. Esme this unsymmetrical & unclenched
jobbers - they're kept on the tenterhooks. as you may
suppose. Nothing settled about the Jews: Except that
the scheme we told you of is off, & several
offers have been made, & only one that seems likely.
But - we'll keep that to discuss on the 19th -
how nice to see you -

V.

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Sales as reported to date, as they say in our trade, over 13,600
What about America?

52,
**Tavistock Square,**
**W.C.1.**
Telephone : Museum 2621.

Monday 7th Feb 1938

Dearest Creature,

I am miserable to hear that you have been so bad. It sounds the most hideous combination of disease — Are you better? Wit it regretfully painful? I, who am an Ostrich, i dont even know what indigestion means, always vaguely that fatal inflammation must be the worst torture in the world. And jaundice added. Let me have one line, if you can. Is any one with you? Ashen, I can't be said to be my dear: you're looking ill with worth oysters, or stale cod. Was it Clive's fault? Is it likely. your gay season: which is one night at K. B. W. drinking cocktails with the Ephemeral beauties of both sexes, wit of? I would have written before, but the moment we got back from Rudwick I developed influenza: got up yesterday: stern week: Can't it

Sorry: we dont daily: 2

again; I so dobbed on, in my usual way: nothing to
matter, only a head like this towel & ears to
wash daily: dump; dorty; dismal. Thank
Heaven, nothing seems wrong with hims, but
all depends upon samples of his water: and this
is to be taken this week. Pits innocent. We
can forget all about it: if not, they suspect
his prostate. Grave, v. it can't be very bad:
only one wonders how, & ponders an observation.
But he seems so well, I can't help being
The doctor admits that — doctors
sanguine.
Know nothing.
Do they think your days with pass it now
Coast Completely, and you have to be very
Carapul? I know nothing about it.
I've not seen a soul for 4 weeks. Exact in this
way one day between doctors visit, telephone Calls re.
Hugh came one day: his kidneys don't work either,
but he looks like the sun on a fog. An old
Cousin gnome, about the sole remaining now will
Vaughan has had his leg off, died in Julia, was
Crackling & bubbling at 77 with enthusiasm for
Pepita, which is still selling: a wire taking
John Lehmann as partner
strictly under
Leonard.

Yes, the Curies are very impressive; in fact the silly Chatter at the beginning: the Comes through Calais. How I adore Scientific fury! Truly we writers were like that.

52, Tavistock Square, w.c.1.
Telephone: Museum 2621.

Valentines Day
1938

Yes the fecalent relief — at last, they say L. is perfectly normal. So that's over. I regret to say a blow he had during the car — nothing else. My influenza leaves a little temperature. The Dr says a Sinus infected: but nothing anyhow. As for me — Lord how bad you must have been! And the horror — 2 nurses! And still one left. Poor wretched thankdog; all manner of misery. But do say, seriously, is it serious this? Shall you get quite rid? Now: the only day I lunch out, with Clive, Cecil here, is the 22nd. Could you make it 21st or 23rd or in fact

any other day that week a month? Please do: I can't
throw over Clare, as he's engaged me this 10 days. You
know why.

And I have a lover. The husband of a lady in high life.
Wishes to meet me clandestinely. I put him in the way I can
love jealousy: one thank; a dozen jaundice forbid! And
has time sealed the veine? Ay me, I make my bid.
How odd, this red flower as a keystone! (hi: grey: dream))

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Web: tell me how you are: what the dr. says: &
arrange another day. please, as I shall elope

V.

HAMILL & BARKER 2/5/62